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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/734,684	12/13/2000	Yuuji Nakahara	Q61854	6519

7590 04/24/2002  
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRAN N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/734,684

Applicant(s)

Nakahara et al

Examiner

Nguyen, Tran N

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 1, 2002
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 2-6 and 9-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 7, and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-19 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 5 20) ☐ Other:

***Restriction Election***

The applicant elects species 1, figures 1-4, on which claims 1 and 7, (also claim 8) are believed readable. Therefore, claims 1 and 7-8 are prosecuted on the merit herein. The election is without traverse. Therefore the restriction is proper and hereby made FINAL.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

**The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:**

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

**Claims 1, 7-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, “a lamination of plat-type magnetic member” is indefinite because of the term “type”. It should be changed to “a lamination of magnetic-plate members” or “laminated magnetic plate members”.

In claim 1, line 4, “sad magnetic members” has unclear antecedent basis. It should be “said laminated magnetic plate members”.

In claim 1, line 5, “magnetic members” should be changed to “outer-ring -core magnetic members” so the plate-shaped magnetic members of the inner ring core can be distinguished from the outer-ring core magnetic members.

In claims 7-8, “the yoke portion”, “the inside ring core, and “the outside ring core lacks antecedent basis.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

**The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

**Claim 1** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being fully anticipated by Enomoto (US6,211,587).

Enomoto discloses a stator (1a) (figs. 3a-b) comprising: an inner-ring core (2a) formed of a lamination of magnetic plate members (2a), and having a plurality of teeth (20) provided on an inner side thereof, coils (10a) disposed in slots (11), and an outer-ring core (4) made from the metal such as iron, which is a magnetic material, wherein the outer-ring core is formed of magnetic members (4a-4d), fitted on an outer circumferential surface of the inner-ring core and holding the inner-ring core.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

**I. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary

Art Unit: 2834

skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 7-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enomoto, as applied in the rejection against the base claim, and further in view of level of ordinary skills of a worker in the art.

Enomoto discloses the claimed invention except for the following added limitations: 9a) thickness of the outer-ring core in radial direction is larger than that of a yoke portion in the inner-ring core, as recited in claim 7; (b) thickness of yoke portion in the inner-ring core in radial direction is larger than that of outer-ring core, as recited in claim 8.

Those skilled in the art would understand that the significant disclosure in the Enomoto ref is to provide an outer-ring core to mechanically supporting the inner-ring core and to efficiently transmitting magnetic flux, as the iron outer-ring core being part of the magnetic circuit therein.

Thus it would have been obvious to an artisan to apply this important teaching, along with obvious engineering design choices or required parameters, to configure the radial thickness of the outer-ring core to be larger than that of the inner-ring core's yoke portion in order to ensure structural integrity of the stator by enhancing the mechanical strength of the outer-ring core's support.

On the other hand, to configure the radial thickness of the inner-ring core's yoke portion to be larger than that of the outer-ring core would enhance the efficiently magnetic interacting between the inner-ring core with coils therein and the motor's rotor. Either way is a matter of obvious engineering design of changing thickness size.

Thus it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Enomoto's stator by configuring the thickness of the outer-ring core to be larger than that of the inner-ring core's yoke portion or by configuring the thickness of the inner-ring core's yoke portion to be larger than that of the outer-ring core, as in the claims. Doing so would enable sufficient strength of either mechanical structure of the stator's outer-ring core or magnetic circuit of the stator's inner-ring core. This changing size of the Enomoto's disclosed stator components. It has been held that changing size and/or shape of the disclosed component requires only routine skills in the art.

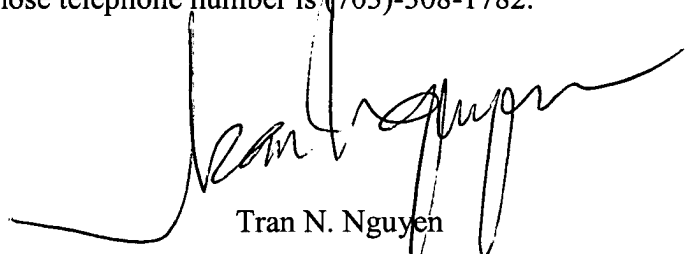
Art Unit: 2834

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tran N. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1639. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703)-308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3431 for regular communications and (703)-305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-1782.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tran N. Nguyen', is written over the typed name and title.

Tran N. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2834

April 23, 2002